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Mayor At Snoop File Quiz

Hits Unverified Accusations

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WASHINGTON — San Francisco Mayor Alioto, presenting himself as a political victim of illegal government "leaking" of unverified information, told the Senate's anti-snooping committee here today:

"What I have presented to this committee proves beyond a shadow of a doubt that the government not only has a big ear, but a pretty big mouth, too."

Alternately affable and angry, the dapper and composed Alioto spent almost two hours elaborating on his charges that Look magazine writers were furnished confidential investigatory files of eight government agencies when they wrote the article linking him to the Mafia.

Tunney Angry

Confidential government material was also made available to reporters who first wrote of his fee-splitting in a Washington state anti-trust case, he said.

He made an obvious hit with the Senate Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights, California's freshman Senator John V. Tunney not only introduced Alioto as a personal friend and an outstanding mayor, er:

applications of your testimony. It makes me mad to see this unfair treatment you have received."

Right to Privacy

Committee chairman Sam Ervin (D-N.C.) declared during the Mayor's testimony that he is in a position where "the government can collect unverified, raw information on you."

"The government has a responsibility to make sure that no one has access to that information except the government itself," he continued.

"The government has no occasion to give out information to other citizens for their own aggrandizement or profit or sensational journals for private profit.

"The disclosure of confidential information can have disastrous effects."

Ervin said Attorney General Mitchell has been invited to appear before the committee to discuss what, if anything, the Justice Department has done to try to correct the situation.

Sen. Birch Bayh (D-Ind.) told Alioto the right to privacy is not adequately protected by the statutes.

"You have shown," he said, "that law enforcement officials are violating the law at a time when we are trying to shore up respect for law and order."

New Turn

Bayh has already introduced a bill beefing up the protections for confidential information.

Alioto's appearance gave the committee hearing a new turn. For the past two weeks it has been looking into military "snooping" into the affairs of private citizens; today it turned to the alleged leaking of information which the Mayor claims was not only confidential but often false.

Alioto, in a conservative gray suit, white shirt and blue tie with a subdued plaid pattern, read a long prepared statement to the committee, occasionally departing from the text to extemporize and even drawing a laugh once in a while.

One such occasion was when he commented that information in the confidential government files linked him to Frank Sinatra.

"Sinatra said he was tired of breathing the smog in Los Angeles and was going to San Francisco," he said. "I said I'd welcome him — and that got into the criminal identification files in Sacramento."

He repeated the charge he has often made — that the Look magazine article was political, coming as it did when his star was rising rapidly in the Democratic party and he was seriously considering running for Governor of California.

An Example

He pointed out that the presiding judge in his libel suit against Look magazine specifically said that Look's allegation that Alioto met with Mafia members at the Nut Tree restaurant was "false and defamatory."

And, he added, much of the information on which the article was based was "raw, unverified, unedited, unevaluated hearsay," which "falsely implies that my name was contained in some insidious way on dozens of pages of law enforcement intelligence reports from coast to coast."

Alioto, an invited witness before the committee, used himself as an example of how a person's life can be disrupted and affected by government gathering of dossiers and other data-bank material involving citizens.

"I thought all government files were inviolable until I learned to my shock that they are easily accessible to a favored few who use them for private purposes."

He said he was satisfied also that the Internal Revenue Service made available to the Oakland Tribune and the Seattle Times certain checks involved in the current Federal Grand Jury probe in Seattle into legal fees Alioto shared with two former top Washington State officials.

"The (Tribune) reporter involved has admitted under oath that he had his information in his possession

and is satisfied that my office seems apparent that the checks available . . . were somehow secured from the Internal Revenue Service."

In the Look case, Alioto said the two authors Richard Carlson and Lance Brissom, compiled in their notebooks "an incredible amount of information, both in verbatim and paraphrase form" from the files and records of, among others, the eight top law enforcement agencies.

He listed them as the U.S. Attorney General's Bureau of Investigation, Internal Revenue Service, Federal Bureau of Narcotics, U.S. Department of Customs, U.S. Department of Immigration and Naturalization, California Criminal Identification and Investigation Bureau of the State Department of Justice and the Los Angeles Police Department.

"The facility with which authors of any background could secure from so many law enforcement agencies this raw, hearsay material creates a great danger," Alioto testified.

"In the present context of First Amendment rights, there exists an extraordinary opportunity for political assassination with impunity," Alioto declared.

"Moreover," he continued, "the danger is compounded when the law enforcement agency which has permitted the disclosure is the same agency entrusted with the responsibility of enforcing the law against disclosure.

"In short, the man who has broken the law is responsible for prosecuting himself."

He termed as "appalling" the "casualness and irresponsibility with which people's names are cast about in intelligence files" by informants and intelligence agents.

Alioto displayed the Look authors' notebooks which he said contained 37 pages which were either direct copies of reports from intelligence agencies or represent the contents of conversations with FBI and CIA agents or other law enforcement sources.